

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Official Communication dated August 10, 2004, which held Applicant's Amendment cancelling original Claims 1-69 in favor of Claims 70-113 to be non-responsive to the Office Action dated August 14, 2003.

By the instant Amendment, Claims 70-113 have been cancelled in favor of newly presented Claims 114-152, which are clearly responsive to the aforementioned Office Action. Claims 114-126 in particular are based on original Claims 1-9, 12, and 18-20. For the Examiner's convenience, a mark-up of the original claims is attached showing the derivation of Claims 114-126. Claims 127-132 are intended to provide protection for additional features of the invention within the broader scope of independent Claim 114. As will be appreciated from the mark-up, Claim 114 effectively constitutes a responsive amendment of original Claim 1. Claims 133-152 recite a user station comprising a processor and software, the software being defined in a similar manner to Claim 114.

In the initial Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Qmodem reference (the other independent claims were similarly rejected). To the extent that the rejection might be

considered to apply to Claim 114. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 114 has been drafted to define the online service selector function and the communication function of previous Claim 1 with greater particularity, and further to recite additional features concerning certain graphical user interface functions. As now defined, the online service selector function is stored and executable at the user station, and enables a user at the user station to select among a plurality of available online services to support an application function. The communications function is now defined as a common communications function, stored and executable at the user station, that directs establishment and use of a communication link between the user station and each online service, when the online service is selected. As now set forth in Claim 114, Applicant's invention further includes a plurality of graphical user interface functions stored and executable at the user station, and associated with the application function, and used to present the user with different customized graphical user interface functions for different selected online services in support of the application function. See, for example, the description at page 40, line 5 through page 44, line 3 and Figs. 3-4 of the drawings.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Qmodem reference

lacks any teaching or suggestion of the inventive combination of features set forth in Claim 114 as discussed above. Nor is Pettus, which was cited in connection with several of the original dependent claims, seen to overcome the deficiencies of the Qmodem reference relative to Claim 114. As will be evident, the same observations apply to independent Claim 133.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that this application now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

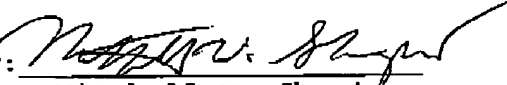
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January 10, 2005

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MARK-UP OF ORIGINAL CLAIMS 1-9, 12, AND 18-20

1141. Software stored on a computer-readable storage medium at a user station, comprising:

an online service selector function, stored and executable at the user station, that enables a user at the user station to select ~~any one of among~~ a plurality of available online services to support an application function; ~~providers; and,~~

a common communications function, stored and executable at the user station, that directs establishment and use of ~~establishes a~~ communication link between the user station and ~~the selected one of the available each~~ online service, when the online service is selected; ~~providers~~

a plurality of graphical user interface functions stored and executable at the user station, and associated with said application function, and used to present the user with different customized graphical user interface functions for different selected online services in support of said application function.

1152. The software as set forth in Claim 1141, further comprising a set of translators and protocol drivers that

facilitate establishment of the communication link between the user station and the selected ~~one of the online service providers~~.

1163. The software as set forth in Claim 1144, further comprising a protocol translation function that facilitates establishment of the communication link between the user station and the selected ~~one of the online service providers~~.

1174. The software as set forth in Claim 1144, further comprising an application programming interface that interconnects the online service selector function and the communications function.

1185. The software as set forth in Claim 1144, further comprising a data transport function that effectuates data transfers between the user station and the selected ~~one of the online service providers~~ via the established communication link.

1196. The software as set forth in Claim 1184, wherein the data transport function uses an object manifest to effectuate data transfers.

1207. The software as set forth in Claim 1196, further

comprising an application programming interface through which the object manifest can be modified.

1218. The software as set forth in Claim 1207, wherein the application programming interface interconnects the data transfer function and a higher-level software entity that can be invoked to modify the object manifest.

1229. The software as set forth in Claim 1207, wherein the application programming interface interconnects the data transfer function and a high-level user interface that enables the user at the user station to modify the object manifest.

12312. The software as set forth in Claim 1185, further comprising a plurality of user interface functions that enables the user to submit functional requests to the selected online service ~~provider~~.

12418. The software as set forth in Claim 1141, wherein the online service selector function presents the user with a list of the available online services ~~providers~~.

12519. The software as set forth in Claim 1141,

wherein the user station is configured for communications with a multiplicity of independently-operated data sources via a non-proprietary network, and further comprises a data transport function that effectuates data transfers between the user station and a selected one of the independently-operated data sources via the non-proprietary network.

12620. The software as set forth in Claim 12519, wherein the non-proprietary network comprises the Internet.

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